

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims

1-14. (Canceled)

15. (New) A method for reconstructing a defective annulus fibrosis situated between upper and lower vertebral bodies, comprising the steps of:

providing a graft comprising first, second, and third segments, wherein the first and third segments comprise vertebral bone tissue and the second segment comprises annulus fibrosis tissue;

forming a first cavity in the upper vertebral body and a second cavity in the lower vertebral body;

inserting the first segment into the first cavity and the third segment into the second cavity, wherein the second segment lies adjacent the diseased annulus fibrosis; and

fixing the first and third segments to the upper and lower vertebral bodies, respectively.

16. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the first and third segments are fixed using screws.

17. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the screws are bioresorbable.

18. (New) The method of claim 15, further comprising an additional graft comprising first, second, and third segments, wherein the first and third segments comprise vertebral bone tissue and the second segment comprises annulus fibrosis tissue.

19. (New) The method of claim 18, further comprising the steps of:
forming a third cavity in the upper vertebral body and a fourth cavity in the lower vertebral body;
inserting the first segment of the additional graft into the third cavity and the third segment of the additional graft into the fourth vertebral cavity,
wherein the second segment of the additional graft lies adjacent the diseased annulus fibrosis.
20. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the graft and the additional graft are arranged in a criss-cross pattern.
21. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the second segment is positioned between the first and third segments.
22. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the vertebral bone tissue is allograft tissue.
23. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the vertebral bone tissue is autograft tissue.
24. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the annulus fibrosis tissue is allograft tissue.
25. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the annulus fibrosis tissue is autograft tissue.